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ON THE OCCURRENCE OF GREGARINA IN THE AMERICAN LOBSTER.

By ALBERT H. TUTTLE, Columbus, O.

When I first read Van Beneden's description of *Gregarina gigantea*, with his account of its habitat, the query naturally arose in my mind, Ought not this, or some nearly allied form, to occur in the alimentary canal of our native species of *Homarus*? The question has frequently occurred to me since, but my inland residence and infrequent visits to the sea-board have, till recently, prevented any attempts at its solution.

Last October, however, having procured some live lobsters by the aid of a Columbus fish-dealer, I undertook the search for these parasites, aided by Mr. Walter M. Miller, a student in my laboratory. The search proved successful in one lobster only, in which Mr. Miller found and called my attention to a number of gregariniform organisms.

I had not a copy of Van Beneden's paper at hand at the time, but was (and am still) disposed to regard the forms in question as specifically identical with *Gregarina gigantea* of that author. With a view to the preservation of the specimens until I could compare them closely with the description of the species in question, I divided them into several lots and placed them in some of the different staining and preservative fluids in common use in the histological laboratory, but in each case with unfavorable results; the specimens either perished or were so shrivelled and distorted by osmotic action as to be worthless.

I have sent to the sea-board on several occasions since for living lobsters, hoping to settle the question of the specific identity of these forms, either positively or negatively; but I have thus far failed to

find among all the lobsters that I have examined another individual that happened to be infested with these parasites. I had hoped to reach a conclusion in the matter in time for publication in these Proceedings, but find myself unable to do so. My only object in publishing so fragmentary a note as the present is to call attention to the existence of these parasites, in the hope that some one more favorably situated as regards the supply of material in question than myself may be able to carry out the question of the systematic position of these forms to its solution; and with the desire of informing any who may be interested in these forms, of the existence of so large and so important a form, in what is to many members of the Society a very accessible habitat.